

The Economic Impact of Health Care

The health care sector is perhaps the **strongest candidate for expansion in Ohio's 18th Congressional District in coming years**. As such, making the necessary investments to help the industry grow locally is – and should be – a crucial part of rebuilding the region's economy.

Ohio's 18th Congressional District is already home to an older than average population. The Census reports that the 18th Congressional District's elderly population was higher than the national average, a population that will likely continue to grow and create demand here in the region.

KEY FACTS ABOUT OHIO'S 65 AND OLDER POPULATION

65+ Population (1990):	1,406,961
65+ Population (2000):	1,507,757
Change in 65+ Population (1990-2000):	+100,796 (7.2%)
65+ Population in OH-18 (2000):	86,625 (13.7%)
National Average, 65+ Population:	12.4%

As you can see, recent trends in Ohio demonstrate that the industry has already experienced significant growth. Furthermore, this growth is not expected to slow down at any time soon. **Since 1950, the percentage of the population 65 and older has grown progressively, increasing from 8.1% in 1950 to 12.4% in the year 2000. The aging of the so-called baby boomer group is expected to accelerate this growth in the coming years, projecting 17.9% by 2025 and 20.2% by 2050.**¹

Furthermore, a report from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) states that **between 1976 and 2006, the total number of workers in the health care sector grew from 277,500 to 633,000, an increase of 228%.**² In fact, the number of workers in the health care industry is expected to continue growing as the population of Ohio – and the rest of the country – continues to age.

This is evidence enough that the rapidly-growing field is ripe with local opportunity. As the nation gets older, **the health care service sector will grow to meet the rising demand**, and with the right investments, Ohio's 18th Congressional District can meet this demand. ODJFS suggests that **in Ohio, there will be 22,176 projected annual openings in health care occupations between 2004 and 2014.**³

Ensuring that these jobs are filled by residents of Ohio's 18th Congressional District in need of work is the principle goal of the RENEW Ohio initiative. Working with regional policy experts and government officials, RENEW will seek to ensure that an expanded health care sector means new employment opportunities for the residents of Ohio's 18th Congressional District.

¹ Shestha, Laura B. "The Changing Demographic Profile of the United States." Congressional Research Service, 2009

² Calig, Jonathan; Newman Sandy; Schaff, Mark. Ohio Health Care Employment: Labor Market Trends and Challenges; Bureau of Market Labor Information. Columbus, OH 2008.

³ Calig (2008)